

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-06

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TAGS: ELAB CI

SUBJ: GRAPE WORKERS WAGES-CONTRACTS

REF: STATE 078926

1. VICTORIANO ZENTENO, PRES. NATIONAL CONFEDERATION CAMPESINOS
"TRIUNFO" WITH APPROXIMATELY 114 THOUSAND MEMBERS, FURNISHED
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

2. NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT OF CHILE'S GRAPES ARE UTILIZED WINE
PRODUCTION WITH REMAINING 2 PERCENT FOR TABLE. THOSE PROCESSED FOR
TABLE PURPOSES ARE USUALLY PICKED BY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WHO ARE
EMPLOYED YEAR ROUND BY FARM OWNER AND ARE PAID SAME RATES PAY
THEY RECEIVE FOR REGULAR VARIETY FARM TASKS. THERE ARE NO
COLLECTIVE CONTRACTS LEGALLY IN FORCE, SINCE ALL WERE ABOLISHED
BY JUNTA DECREE 198 SHORTLY AFTER SEPT 11, 1973.

3. ZENTENO SAYS ONLY CHILEAN PROVINCE WITH ACTUAL (BUT ILLEGAL)
COLLECTIVE CONTRACT COVERING AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IS CURICO (ONE
OF GRAPE GROWING CENTERS). WORKERS THIS PROVINCE RECEIVE CASH
PAY ESCUDOS 29,000 (PRESENTLY US\$52.73 DOLLARS AT BANKERS RATE
550 TO 1) PER MONTH AND IN-KIND PAYMENTS (MOSTLY FOOD PRODUCTS)
WORTH ESCUDOS 27,000 (US 49.10 DOLLARS). THIS WOULD BE FIGURE

REQUESTED REFTEL FOR WORKERS PICKING TABLE GRAPES. PRACTICALLY
100 PERCENT THESE WORKERS ARE UNIONIZED ALTHOUGH NOT ALL BELONG
TO CONF. "TRIUNFO". THERE HAS NEVER EXISTED A NATIONAL COLLECTIVE
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CONTRACT COVERING THIS WORK, BUT PRIOR SEPT 11, 1973 THERE WERE

SEVERAL PROVINCIAL CONTRACTS BETWEEN GROWER ASSOCIATIONS AND
CAMPESINO FEDERATIONS.

4. FYI. MIGRATORY OR PART TIME AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PICK
MOST OF WINE GRAPES. ZENTENO SAYS THAT ALL IN CURICO PROVINCE WORK
UNDER ENFORCED BUT ILLEGAL COLLECTIVE CONTRACTS. PROVISIONS CALL
FOR 1.4 ESCUDO PER KILO FOR WHITE GRAPES AND 1.6 ESCUDOS FOR DARK
GRAPES. WORKERS AVERAGE 1,000 TO 1,300 KILOS PRODILFRNKLVWER DAY.
IN DOLLAR TERMS THIS WOULD PRODUCE INCOME RANGES 2.55 TO 3.31
DOLLARS PER DAY FOR WHITE WINE GRAPES AND 2.91 TO 3.68 DOLLARS PER
DAY FOR DARK GRAPES. ZENTENO INDICATED THESE LATTER AVERAGES WOULD
BE POSSIBLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER BUT, NEVERTHELESS, CLOSE PATTERN FOR
WINE GRAPE PICKING WAGES THROUGHOUT CHILE.
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